

# **The Unified Family Transition Theory™**

by Glenn Olien - ©1997

## **FTP = Q33TF**

**Family Transition Potential = Quality of 33 Transition Factors**

The **Unified Family Transition Theory** unites the bewildering array of ideas concerning the process of Family transition into one easily understandable concept. Five statements and a chart create the basis of the theory.

**\* Families seeking or having the most transition supports have the greatest potential of making a good transition.**

There are 33 transition supports. These supports assist a family in making a good transition. They provide the experiences; the physical, mental, and emotional basis for change. The chart lists all of the transition supports.

**\* Families not seeking transition supports will not make a good transition.**

**\* Families having mainly “paid-for” supports rarely make good lasting change.**

“Paid-for Supports” occur when someone (or a system) is paying for the support.

**\* Most transition supports deteriorate in direct proportion to the amount of time elapsed since the change was needed.**

**\* The greater the change the greater the need for diverse transition supports.**

### **There are three types of transition supports:**

**\* Paid for transition supports**

These cost money. Examples: Government programs, institutions, consultants, infrastructures.

**\* Unpaid or “natural” transition supports.**

These are people who provide assistance. They do not require payments, and their support can last a lifetime. Examples are: Mentors, family, friends, employers, networking contacts, non-profit societies, support groups, and people the family seeks out for support.

**\* Family Attributes.**

These are family traits such as education, health, appearance, and even the personality and attitudes of the family.

## Characteristics of Family Transition Foundations

**Ability to Relocate** is the willingness and ability to move to a location best suited to the transition.

*Shade in 100% if family is ready, willing and able to relocate as needed.*

**Address** is the place where it is convenient for you to access the services you need, and where others can easily access you. An address is one of the basic supports. Most people take it for granted. However, an address may be a barrier for many reasons.

*Shade in 100% if your address does not raise a concern.*

**Ages** of family members determine certain qualities of the family. Each age brings different benefits, strengths, and requirements.

*Shade in 100% if the qualities related to age match the qualities required to make a family transition.*

**Aptitude** is the natural abilities and talents of family members.

*Shade in 100% if the family members have the natural ability and strengths to make a good transition.*

**Assessments** are the evaluations of the family and its members in relation to the transition desired.

*Shade in 100% if assessments have been done and are useful.*

**Associations** related to family transitions are organizations of families focusing on transitioning.

*Shade in 100% if you belong to associations critical for transitioning.*

**Attitudes** among family members is the mental and emotional feelings related to the particular transition.

*Shade in 100% if attitude is optimistic and positive.*

**Co-workers** are people willing and able to support the family.

*Shade in 100% if the family has asked past, present, and future co-workers for support in making a good transition.*

**Education** is the knowledge of the family members required to make the transition.

*Shade in 100% if family members have the schooling and practical knowledge to make the transition.*

**Employers** are organizations and people hiring people.

*Shade in 100% if the family members have asked employers for support in this transition.*

**Extended Family** is any group of people willing to provide support, doesn't necessarily refer to relatives.

*Shade in 100% if you have asked all "extended family" members for support for this transition.*

**Family Counselling** helps the family develop firm transition foundations.

*Shade in 100% if using government or private family counselling.*

**Family experiences** are the past experiences of family transitioning.

*Shade in 100% if past transition experiences will aid the family to make a good transition.*

**Family Image** of family member(s) when compared to the image of families who have made a good transition.

*Shade in 100% if family members' image matches.*

**Family Support Agencies** help family members develop supports necessary for transition.

*Shade in 100% if using government or private support agencies.*

**Family Transition Plan** is an agreed upon course of action of all family members in order to work through the transition.

*Shade in 100% if this is a written document agreed to by all family members.*

**Family Vision** is the family's vision for change.

*Shade in 100% if all members are satisfied with this vision.*

**Friends** are any individuals or groups of people you are attached to by respect or affection.

*Shade in 100% if asking for support from friends.*

**Government Programs** are provincial and federally funded activities designed to strengthen families in transition.

*Shade in 100% if you know all the programs available to you and are accessing the ones beneficial for your family.*

**Health** is the ability of individuals within the family to undertake the transition process.

*Shade in 100% if health is not an issue.*

**Institutions** are those places that provide family support in the Family.

*Shade in 100% if you have quality support from Family institutions.*

**Mentors** are trusted counselors or guides.

*Shade in 50% if the family has a transition mentor. Shade in the other 50% if the family is mentoring another family.*

**Non-Profit Societies** are organizations that are not conducted for the purpose of making a profit.

*Shade in 100% if using the services of a non-profit society.*

**Personality** is the spectrum of characteristics of the family unit.

*Shade in 100% if the personalities will assist this transition.*

**Recreation/Entertainment** are activities, paid and un-paid for, that assist transition.

*Shade in 100% if recreation/entertainment activities are in line with family transition vision.*

**Seeking Family Transition Supports** is the attempt to obtain the benefits from the transition foundations. Most importantly, it is asking others for their support in making a good transition.

*Shade in 100% if seeking all the family transition foundations for this transition.*

**Self-Esteem** is valuing and regarding the family, its skills and strengths in relation to the transition.

*Shade in 100% if the family highly regards itself and its skills for making a good transition.*

**Support Groups** are any organized groups of people willing to take sides with, tolerate, and uphold members of the group.

*Shade in 100% if all members of the family belong to a group that supports families in transition.*

**Telephone** is the primary method of contacting the family.

*Shade in 100% if telephone contact is easy and reliable.*

**Transportation** is the means family members have of getting around.

*Shade in 100% if there exists a reliable means of transportation for family members.*

**Unions** are organizations of employees.

*Shade in 100% if any family member belongs to a union and has asked for support for this transition.*

# The 33 Family Supports

## Unified Family Transition Theory ®

### Types of Family Factors:

**Paid-for-Support**

**Unpaid Natural Foundations**

**Family Attributes**

